



The President's Daily Brief

10 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Enemy activity in South Vietnam dropped slightly over the weekend, but there are numerous indications that the Communists plan further actions. (Page 1)

Cairo is anticipating Israeli retaliation for its raid Saturday against installations in the Sinai Peninsula. (Page 2)

In northern Laos, the North Vietnamese are trying to overcome resupply problems caused by interdiction of roads. (Page 3)

Bonn is moving ahead swiftly on the nonproliferation treaty. (Page 4)

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The intensity of the opening phase of the enemy's winter-spring campaign tapered off somewhat over the weekend.

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Captured documents and statements of prisoners indicate that the enemy plans heavier attacks in widely scattered areas of the country during November and December, including sapper actions against Saigon.

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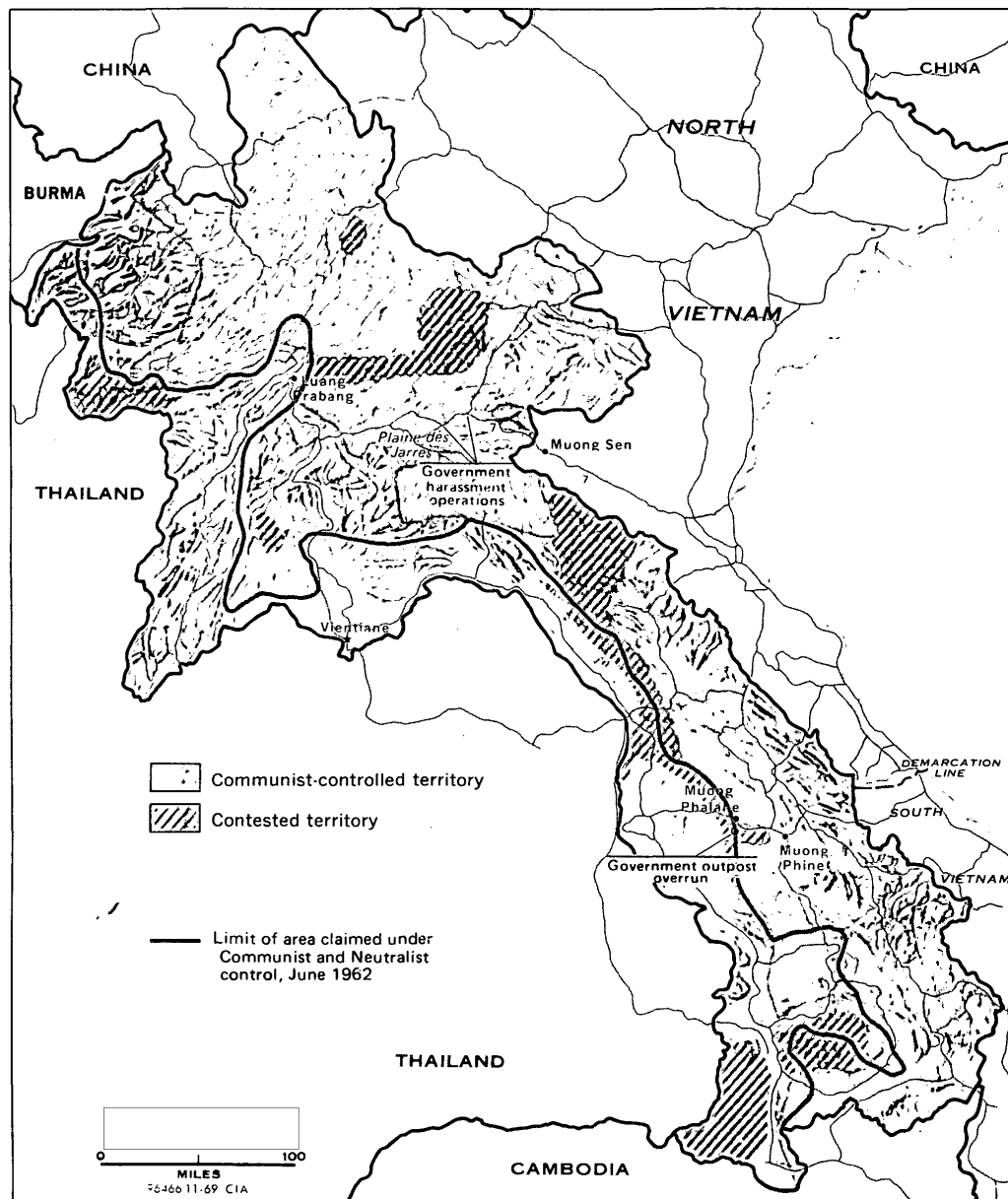
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EGYPT-ISRAEL

Cairo has put its forces in the Suez Canal area in a high state of alert. This has been done in anticipation of an early retaliation for the Egyptian naval bombardment of Israeli installations in the Sinai Peninsula on Saturday.

The Egyptian operation probably was timed to coincide with the harsh public statements being issued by the Arab foreign and defense ministers now meeting in Cairo. Tel Aviv appears not to be overly concerned by the raid, which it claims did little or no damage, but we do not rule out some return action.

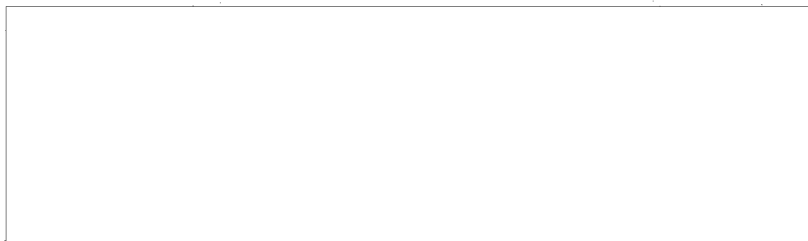
Laos: Current Situation



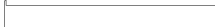
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LAOS



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The fact that Communist military activity has been concentrated primarily against clearing Route 7 of government guerrillas suggests that, until resupply problems are ironed out, there is little likelihood of a large-scale Communist offensive.

In southern Laos, Communist forces have had some success in blocking further government forays into the infiltration corridor. There is a growing threat to the government base at Muong Phalane, and this has forced government commanders to pull back a column operating near Muong Phine.

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NOTES

West Germany: Chancellor Brandt is moving forward rapidly on his commitment for early signature of the nonproliferation treaty. Present West German plans call for parliamentary debate on the treaty on 12 November, cabinet consideration the following day, and signature early next week, according to Disarmament Commissioner Hellmuth Roth.

India: Despite attempts to work out differences, Congress Party leadership remains badly split. Congress' governing Working Committee, which is dominated by Mrs. Gandhi's enemies, is scheduled to meet this week, and it may take disciplinary action against the Prime Minister and her supporters. Such action would further reduce the already slim chance for an eventual compromise between the quarreling factions.

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